



# NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.  
See *MCI v. FCC*, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 20, 2008

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**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS IN RESPONSE TO THE  
D.C. CIRCUIT'S DECISION VACATING THE FCC'S DENIAL AND DISMISSAL OF  
THE GULF COAST MIGRATORY BIRDS PETITION**

For years, I have been disappointed with the FCC's failure to get serious about its environmental responsibilities. Now the D.C. Circuit has affirmed something this agency should have acknowledged a long time ago: that the National Environmental Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act require the FCC to take a hard look at the effects of communications towers on migratory birds.

Yesterday's decision should be a wake-up call to this agency. It is time to stop acting as if a problem will go away if we just keep kicking it down the road. As we move forward with the steps that the court has ordered us to take, I hope we will live up to the letter *and the spirit* of the environmental statutes Congress has given us. This means more than just checking the boxes required by the statutes—it means taking a thorough look at whether our rules and practices contribute to millions of needless bird deaths. I look forward to working with my colleagues to accomplish this important and time-sensitive work.

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